

Interagency Human Trafficking Task Force
Data Collection and Information Sharing Subcommittee Meeting
July 16, 2012
Convened at 9:00 am

Members present: Chief Tom Pasquarello (co-chair), Amy Farrell (co-chair), Casey Atkins, Chris Carroll, Susan Goldfarb, Mike Coelho

Members absent: David Carbin

Massachusetts Attorneys General Staff Present: Britte McBride, Liam Lowney, Deborah Bercovitch, Alexandra DeScepolo

The group discussion began with an overview of the general goals for the meeting, specifically that we would start to develop a screening instrument and the protocols and procedures to guide the screening of potential human trafficking victims. In future meetings we will begin discussing the specifics of information sharing and the development of data systems or resources to help facilitate the sharing of information. Liam confirmed that no other subcommittee is currently addressing the issue of screening tools. The group agreed that we may want to involve members of the victim services subcommittee to review and provide comment on our preliminary screening tools and protocols.

The group reviewed some sample screening instruments including the 10-question screening tool for runaway youth implemented in St. Paul, MN, the California POST indicators of human trafficking, the Health and Human Services Human Trafficking Screening Tool and the Indianapolis Human Trafficking Task Force Screening Tool. The group discussed some of the positive and negative aspects of different types of screening instruments. The group agreed that there are some basic parts of the sample screening tools that we would want to replicate, including questions about freedom of movement, physical harm, fraud and financial gain and psychological coercion. The group discussed the possibility of developing multiple screening instruments to capture the potentially unique experiences of minors and sex and labor trafficking victims. At a minimum the group thought that it would be important to have a tool for screening minors and a separate tool for screening adults.

The group agreed that more work would need to be done to develop protocols/instructions to guide the screening process. For example, it is not clear what triggers or indicators would lead a person to ask screening questions. We would want to explain why the proposed screening questions are of a limited nature and the difference between preliminary screening and more in-depth assessment questions that would be asked in a follow up interview. The group also discussed the need to include guidance for those doing the screening about how to start the screening process, ways to make potential victims more comfortable and secure and ensuring that the screened individual is in a safe place where they can answer questions as honestly as possible, and the steps that a person should take to report potential victimization or ensure the safety of a potential victim following the screening process.

The group spent the majority of the meeting structures and potential questions for screening instruments. The following represents a preliminary list of the questions we discussed for *screening minors*:

1. What is your age? (possibly ask actual birthdate)
2. Are you in school?
3. Where do you live? (where do you sleep and eat? What is your address?)/Who do you live with?
4. Who else lives there?
5. Can you come and go as you please?
6. Who would you contact in an emergency?
7. Do you work? How do you get money?
8. Did someone ever touch you in a way you did not like?
9. Have you ever exchanged sex for food, clothing, housing or money?
10. Has anyone forced you to do something that you don't want to do?
11. Has anyone hurt or tried to hurt you?
12. What are you most concerned about right now? What are you fearful of?

The following represents a preliminary list of the types of questions/areas of questions that we discussed for *screening adults*.

1. What is your age? (possibly ask for their actual birthday) *Question used to screen that not a minor*
2. Describe where you live (where do you sleep and eat? What is the address?)Who do you live with?
3. Can you come and go as you please? Have you ever been threatened if you tried to leave?
4. What are your living conditions like? Do you sleep on a bed, cot or on the floor?
5. Are there locks on your doors and windows so you cannot get out?
6. Have you been deprived of food, water, sleep or medical care?
7. Do you work?
8. Do you get paid for what you do?
9. How do you get to and from work?
10. What are your working conditions like?
11. Have you ever exchanged sex for anything of value such as shelter, food, clothing or money?
12. Have your identification or travel documents been taken from you?
13. Have you ever been physically harmed in any way?
14. Has anyone ever threatened your family?
15. Is anyone forcing you to do anything that you do not want to do?
16. Do you feel safe?

We still need to flesh out the details of these questions and make some decisions about whether we would recommend a separate instrument for adult sex trafficking and adult labor trafficking. At the next meeting the group will review the draft screening questions and discuss the wording of draft questions and the need for new/additional questions. The Attorney General's Office may

solicit the input from someone from the wage and hour division to assist with the development of questions aimed at uncovering labor trafficking.

Mike Coelho provided an update on the integration of human trafficking elements into UCR summary reporting and NIBRS. FBI has issued guidance on the addition of human trafficking elements into the UCR. Mike will distribute copies of the UCR information to the subcommittee members. Unfortunately the resources for training municipal law enforcement on the new elements and how they should be used are limited. The FBI only has two national trainers and it is not clear where MA is on the training schedule for the new ht elements. The state has limited funding to provide in-service training. As a result, there is concern about the quality of data that will be collected on human trafficking. Of particular concern is limited knowledge about human trafficking and differences between the FBI definition and state definition of trafficking crimes. The group discussed the possibility of including a recommendation that the legislature provide funding for training law enforcement on the reporting requirements around human trafficking.

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 am.